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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/980,296	11/30/2001	Mitsuhiro Kageyama	21900/0042	9858

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EXAMINER	
WILDER, PETER C	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2623	

DATE MAILED: 10/05/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/980,296	KAGEYAMA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Peter C. Wilder	2623	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-42* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-3,5-9,13,14,17 and 18* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) *4,10-12,15,16 and 19-42* is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *30 November 2001* is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☒ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Upon further examination the restriction requirement on 7/05/2006 is being withdrawn by the examiner, and all claims are being examined.

Drawings

Figure 2 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). Corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference sign(s) mentioned in the description: Page 13 line 25 and Page 14 line 1 reference element 210 which is not in any of the drawings.

Page 15 line 2 indicates element 450 which is not if Figure 4.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: Page 15 lines 1-4 have a sentence that seems to be missing the placement of the word "are".

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of

this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-3, 5-9, 13, 14, 17, and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Arai et al. (U.S. 6486920).

The applied reference has a common assignee with the instant application. Based upon the earlier effective U.S. filing date of the reference, it constitutes prior art under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). This rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) might be overcome either by a showing under 37 CFR 1.132 that any invention disclosed but not claimed in the reference was derived from the inventor of this application and is thus not the invention "by another," or by an appropriate showing under 37 CFR 1.131.

Referring to claim 1, Arai teaches a program guide information-generating device of a program guide information-generating system (Figure 70 element 500 and Column 24 lines 20-30), which has a simulcast range processing block (Figure 70 elements 61 and 50) which generates a program broadcasting schedule by replacing the program entries in a simulcast range with the program entries registered in the program broadcasting schedule of a simulcast original channel identifier when simulcast range information (Figures 66 and 69 along with Column 24 lines 30-48 and Column 25 lines 15-25 teach analog BS program information that for the simulcast program ID 230 information is replaced with a link to the digital BS Service_ID 300; Column 27 lines 22-30 teaches the sixteenth embodiment is a simulcast service) comprising the simulcast range having a date and time to start the simulcast range (Figure 65 teaches the digital

BS Program Information having a simulcast range with a start time of 3:00 and a date of 97/11/14 for the program 30 "Alarm clock TV!") and a date and time to end the simulcast range (Figure 65 Program_ID 30 teaches the simulcast range with an end time of 4:00 by the duration having a time period of 60 minutes and an end date of 97/11/14), a simulcast identifier (Figures 66 and 69 teaches a simulcast identifier of BS30) and the simulcast original channel identifier is registered to represent some or all of the program entries in the program broadcasting schedule of each channel in which program entries each of which having a date and time to start broadcasting and a event identifier are registered in the order they are broadcast (Figure 65 teaches channel Service_ID 300 which represents multiple programs and shows the order that the programs are broadcast).

Referring to claim 2, depending on claim 1, Arai teaches wherein the simulcast range processing block generates the program broadcasting schedule by using the date and time to start broadcasting of a program entry registered not in the program broadcasting schedule and having the simulcast identifier and the simulcast original channel identifier registered therein as the date and time to start the simulcast range and using the date and time to end broadcasting of the program entry as the date and time to end the simulcast range (Figure 70 teaches element 61 teaches the simulcast range processing block registering the simulcast original channel identifier by itself without time and date information as can be seen in Figure 69 the last row).

Referring to claim 3, depending on claim 1, Arai teaches wherein the simulcast range processing block replaces the program entries in the simulcast range in the program broadcasting schedule having the simulcast range information registered therein with program entries whose times and dates to start broadcasting fall between the date and time to start the simulcast range and the date and time to end the simulcast range in the program broadcasting schedule corresponding to the simulcast original channel identifier contained in the simulcast range information (Figures 66 and 69 along with Column 24 lines 30-48 and Column 25 lines 15-25 teach analog BS program information that for the simulcast program ID 230 information is replaced with a link to the digital BS Service_ID 300; Column 27 lines 22-30 teaches the sixteenth embodiment is a simulcast service; According to Figures 66 and 69 the program information is replaced with "(nothing)" in the column corresponding to Program_ID 230 and the program link information Figure 69 links the analog channel to the digital channel 300 which corresponds to the a time period that falls between the data and time to start and date and time to end the simulcast program).

Referring to claim 5, depending on claim 1, Arai which has a current/next event information-generating block which generates single-event information having the channel identifier of a simulcast other channel from the event identifier of a program entry in the program broadcasting schedule of a simulcast original channel and the program information of the simulcast original channel when a simulcast range in a

program broadcasting schedule is replaced by the program entry (Figure 69 and Column 25 lines 15-43).

Referring to claim 6, Arai teaches a program guide information-generating device of a program guide information-generating system (Figure 70), which has single-event information for simulcast range-generating block which generates single-event information for a simulcast range which has the channel identifier of a simulcast other channel from the event identifier of a program entry registered in the program broadcasting schedule of a simulcast original channel and the program information of the simulcast original channel in accordance with a simulcast relationship which has the relationship between the channel identifier of the simulcast other channel and the channel identifier of the simulcast original channel (Column 24 lines 20-48 and Figures 65 and 66 teach that the analog version of a simulcast program "Alarm clock TV!" in Figure 66 is linked to the digital program entry registration with the original simulcast channel).

Referring to claim 7, Arai teaches a program guide information-generating device of a program guide information-generating system, which has single-event information for simulcast range-generating block which generates the single-event information for a simulcast range which has the channel identifier of a simulcast other channel from the event identifier of a program entry whose time and date to start broadcasting falls

between the date and time to start the simulcast range and the date and time to end the simulcast range the program broadcasting schedule corresponding to the simulcast original channel identifier and the program information of the simulcast original channel when simulcast range information is registered in the program broadcasting schedule (See the rejection of claim 6, The single event information in Figure 65 for the program "Alrarm Clock TV!" has a known start time and the end time would is one hour/60 minutes after the start time).

Referring to claim 8, Arai teaches a program guide information-generating device of a program guide information-generating system, which has single-event information for simulcast range-generating block which generates the single-event information for a simulcast range which has the channel identifier of a simulcast other channel from the event identifiers of program entries registered in the program broadcasting schedules of all channels and the program information of the channel identifier (See the rejection of claim 6 and Figure 67 teaches and program guide of all channels also see program guide 72).

Referring to claim 9, Arai teaches a program guide information-transmitting device of a program guide information-generating system, which has a current/next event information-transmitting block which generates current/next event information by use of the information from a current/next event information transmission schedule in

which current/next event entries comprising the date and time to start broadcasting of a current event (it is inherent that current/next event information in a transmission schedule has to have a starting date and time of broadcast), the event identifier of the current event and the event identifier of a next event are registered in the order they are broadcast, the single-event information, the single-event information for a simulcast range and a program initiation notice comprising a channel identifier and a event identifier and which transmits the current/next event information, wherein the current/next event information is generated by current/next event information-generating means when a simulcast original channel identifier is set in the program initiation notice (See the rejection of claim 6 and Figure 65 teaches a program guide which has current/next event information, and a simulcast is set for Program_ID 230 in Figure 66).

Referring to claim 13, Arai teaches a program guide information-transmitting device of a program guide information-generating system, which has a current/next event information-transmitting block which generates current/next event information from a current/next event information transmission schedule in which current/next event entries comprising the date and time to start broadcasting of a current event, the event identifier of the current event and the event identifier of a next event are registered in the order they are broadcast, the single-event information, the single-event information for a simulcast range and a program initiation notice comprising a channel identifier and a event identifier and which transmits the current/next event information, wherein the current/next event information-transmitting block uses single-event information for a

simulcast range which has the channel identifier and event identifier set in the program initiation notice as current event information and the single-event information for an undetermined event as next event information to generate the current/next event information when a simulcast original channel identifier is set in the program initiation notice (See the rejection of claims 6 and 9).

Referring to claim 14, Arai teaches a program guide information-transmitting device of a program guide information-generating system, which has a current/next event information-transmitting block which generates current/next event information from a current/next event information transmission schedule in which current/next event entries comprising the date and time to start broadcasting, management code and event identifier of a current event and the event identifier of a next event are registered in the order they are broadcast, the single-event information, the single-event information for a simulcast range and a program initiation notice comprising a channel identifier, a management code and a simulcast original channel identifier and which transmits the current/next event information, wherein the current/next event information is generated by current/next event information-generating means when the simulcast original channel identifier is set in the program initiation notice (See the rejection of claim 13 and 6).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 17 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Arai et al. (U.S. 6486920) in view of Hendricks et al (U.S. 5600573).

Referring to claim 17, Arai teaches a program guide information-generating/transmitting system (Figure 70) comprising a program editing device which edits a program broadcasting schedule and program information (Figure 70 element 61), a program guide information managing device which manages edited information (Figure 70 element 61 generates and manages the link information), a program guide information-generating device which receives the program broadcasting schedule and the program information from the program guide information managing device and generates program guide information (Figure 70 element 50 receives information from element 50),

a program guide information-generating device of a program guide information-generating system (Figure 70 element 500 and Column 24 lines 20-30), which has a simulcast range processing block (Figure 70 elements 61 and 50) which generates a program broadcasting schedule by replacing the program entries in a simulcast range

with the program entries registered in the program broadcasting schedule of a simulcast original channel identifier when simulcast range information (Figures 66 and 69 along with Column 24 lines 30-48 and Column 25 lines 15-25 teach analog BS program information that for the simulcast program ID 230 information is replaced with a link to the digital BS Service_ID 300; Column 27 lines 22-30 teaches the sixteenth embodiment is a simulcast service) comprising the simulcast range having a date and time to start the simulcast range (Figure 65 teaches the digital BS Program Information having a simulcast range with a start time of 3:00 and a date of 97/11/14 for the program 30 "Alarm clock TV!") and a date and time to end the simulcast range (Figure 65 Program_ID 30 teaches the simulcast range with an end time of 4:00 by the duration having a time period of 60 minutes and an end date of 97/11/14), a simulcast identifier (Figures 66 and 69 teaches a simulcast identifier of BS30) and the simulcast original channel identifier is registered to represent some or all of the program entries in the program broadcasting schedule of each channel in which program entries each of which having a date and time to start broadcasting and a event identifier are registered in the order they are broadcast (Figure 65 teaches channel Service_ID 300 which represents multiple programs and shows the order that the programs are broadcast).

Arai fails to teach a program initiation control device which transmits a program initiation notice, and a program guide information-transmitting device which receives the program guide information from the program guide information-generating device and transmits the current/next event information generated from the program guide

information in accordance with the program initiation notice transmitted from the program initiation control device.

In an analogous art Hendricks teaches a program initiation control device which transmits a program initiation notice (Column 13 lines 7-11 teaches element 412 in Figure 4 which is part of element 312 in Figure 2 controlling the initiation of programs to the storage device 308 in Figure 2), and a program guide information-transmitting device (Figure 2 element 320) which receives the program guide information from the program guide information-generating device (Figure 2 element 324 teaches a scheduler which is coupled to element 312 which is coupled to element 320) and transmits the current/next event information generated from the program guide information in accordance with the program initiation notice transmitted from the program initiation control device (Column 10 lines 42-48 teaches the scheduler telling the system when the information will be made available to the remote sites and when the data will be transmitted).

At the time the invention was made it would have been obvious for one skilled in the art to modify the simulcast system of Arai with the program guide control and transmission system of Hendricks for the purpose of efficiently organizing the television programs to be offered to viewers and provide a computer assisted program packaging system for a television program delivery system (Column 4 lines 40-42 and Column 5 lines 8-10, Hendricks).

Referring to claim 18, depending on claim 17, Arai teaches wherein the program guide information-generating device (Figure 70) has a current/next event information-generating block (Elements 61 and 50 in Figure 70) which generates single-event information having the channel identifier of a simulcast other channel from the event identifier of a program entry in the program broadcasting schedule of a simulcast original channel and the program information of the simulcast original channel when the simulcast range in the program broadcasting schedule is replaced by the program entry in the program broadcasting schedule of the simulcast original channel (Column 24 lines 20-48).

Claim 17 is also rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over applicants admitted prior art in view of Arai et al. (U.S. 6486920).

Referring to claim 17, the applicant's admitted prior art teaches a program guide information-generating/transmitting system (Figure 2) comprising a program editing device which edits a program broadcasting schedule (Figure 2 element 101 and Page 1 line 22) and program information, a program guide information managing device which manages edited information (Figure 2 element 102 and Page 1 lines 21 and 22), a program guide information-generating device (Figure 2 element 103) which receives the program broadcasting schedule and the program information from the program guide information managing device and generates program guide information (Figure 2

element 103 and Page 1 lines 20-24), a program initiation control device which transmits a program initiation notice (Figure 2 element 104 and Page 1 lines 24-25), and a program guide information-transmitting device which receives the program guide information from the program guide information-generating device and transmits the current/next event information generated from the program guide information in accordance with the program initiation notice transmitted from the program initiation control device (Figure 2 element 105 and Page 2 lines 5-12).

The applicant's admitted prior art fails to teach wherein the program guide information-generating device has a simulcast range processing block which generates a program broadcasting schedule by replacing the program entries in a simulcast range with the program entries registered in the program broadcasting schedule of a simulcast original channel identifier when simulcast range information comprising the simulcast range having a date and time to start the simulcast range and a date and time to end the simulcast range, a simulcast identifier and the simulcast original channel identifier is registered to represent some or all of the program entries in the program broadcasting schedule of each channel in which program entries each of which having a date and time to start broadcasting and a event identifier are registered in the order they are broadcast.

In an analogous art Arai teaches a program guide information-generating device of a program guide information-generating system (Figure 70 element 500 and Column 24 lines 20-30), which has a simulcast range processing block (Figure 70 elements 61 and 50) which generates a program broadcasting schedule by replacing the program

entries in a simulcast range with the program entries registered in the program broadcasting schedule of a simulcast original channel identifier when simulcast range information (Figures 66 and 69 along with Column 24 lines 30-48 and Column 25 lines 15-25 teach analog BS program information that for the simulcast program ID 230 information is replaced with a link to the digital BS Service_ID 300; Column 27 lines 22-30 teaches the sixteenth embodiment is a simulcast service) comprising the simulcast range having a date and time to start the simulcast range (Figure 65 teaches the digital BS Program Information having a simulcast range with a start time of 3:00 and a date of 97/11/14 for the program 30 "Alarm clock TV!") and a date and time to end the simulcast range (Figure 65 Program_ID 30 teaches the simulcast range with an end time of 4:00 by the duration having a time period of 60 minutes and an end date of 97/11/14), a simulcast identifier (Figures 66 and 69 teaches a simulcast identifier of BS30) and the simulcast original channel identifier is registered to represent some or all of the program entries in the program broadcasting schedule of each channel in which program entries each of which having a date and time to start broadcasting and a event identifier are registered in the order they are broadcast (Figure 65 teaches channel Service_ID 300 which represents multiple programs and shows the order that the programs are broadcast).

At the time the invention was made it would have been obvious for one skilled in the art to modify the program information transmission system of the applicants admitted prior art with the simulcast system of Arai for the purpose of being able to allow users to check the difference between the linked channels in their program

contents, fees, and qualities when the same program is broadcasted in both analog and digital channels (Column 4 lines 16-20, Arai).

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 4, 10-12, 15, and 16 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 19-42 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 19, 25, 31, and 37 are allowable because:

the current/next event information-generating means acquires the event identifier of a current event from the current/next event entry in which the event identifier of the current event matches with the event identifier set in the program initiation notice in the current/next event information transmission schedule corresponding to the simulcast original channel identifier set in the program initiation identifier and uses the channel identifier of the program initiation notice and single-event information for a simulcast range in which the event identifier is set as current event information and the single-event information for an undetermined entry as next event information to generate the current/next event information.

Claims 20, 26, 32, 38 are allowable because:

the current/next event information-generating means acquires the event identifier of a current event and the event identifier of a next event from the current/next event entry in which the event identifier of the current event matches with the event identifier set in the program initiation notice in the current/next event information transmission schedule corresponding to the simulcast original channel identifier set in the program initiation identifier and uses the channel identifier set in the program initiation notice as current event information and single-event information for a simulcast range which has the event identifier as next event information to generate the current/next event information.

Claims 21, 27, 33, and 39 are allowable because:

the current/next event information-generating means specifies single-event information having the information about the simulcast original channel identifier and event identifier set in the program initiation notice, replaces the channel identifier of the single-event information with the channel identifier set in the program initiation notice and uses the single-event information as the current event information of the current/next event information to generate the current/next event information.

Claims 23, 29, and 35 are allowable because:

the current/next event information-generating means acquires the event identifier of a current event and the event identifier of a next event from the current/next event

entry in which the management code matches with the management code set in the program initiation notice in the current/next event information transmission schedule corresponding to the simulcast original channel identifier set in the program initiation identifier and uses the channel identifier set in the program initiation notice as current event information and single-event information for a simulcast range which has the event identifier as next event information to generate the current/next event information.

Claims 24, 30, 36 and 42 are allowable because:

the current/next event information-generating means acquires the event identifier of a current event from the current/next event entry in which the management code matches with the management code set in the program initiation notice in the current/next event information transmission schedule corresponding to the simulcast original channel identifier set in the program initiation identifier and uses single-event information for a simulcast range which has the channel identifier set in the program initiation notice and the event identifier as current event information and the single-event information for an undetermined entry as next event information to generate the current/next event information.

Claim 41 is allowable because:

the current/next event information-generating means acquires the event identifier of a current event and the event identifier of a next event from the current/next event entry in which the management code matches with the management code set in the

program initiation notice in the current/next event information transmission schedule corresponding to the simulcast original channel identifier set in the program initiation identifier and uses the channel identifier set in the program initiation notice as current event information and single-event information for a simulcast range which has the event identifier as next event information to generate the current/next event information.

Claim 22 is allowable because:

the simulcast range processing block does not perform the replacement when the date and time to start the simulcast range in the simulcast range information in the program broadcasting schedule is undetermined or when the date and time to start broadcasting of the program entry in the program broadcasting schedule corresponding to the simulcast original channel identifier in the simulcast range information is undetermined, the program guide information-transmitting device has a current/next event information-transmitting block which generates current/next event information from a current/next event information transmission schedule in which current/next event entries comprising the date and time to start broadcasting, management code and event identifier of a current event and the event identifier of a next event are registered in the order they are broadcast, the single-event information, the single-event information for a simulcast range and a program initiation notice comprising a channel identifier, a management code and a simulcast original channel identifier and which transmits the current/next event information, the current/next event information-transmitting block generates the current/next event information by current/next event information-

generating means when the simulcast original channel identifier is set in the program initiation notice, and the current/next event information-generating means acquires the event identifier of a current event and the event identifier of a next event from the current/next event entry in which the management code matches with the management code set in the program initiation notice in the current/next event information transmission schedule corresponding to the simulcast original channel identifier set in the program initiation identifier and uses the channel identifier set in the program initiation notice as current event information and single-event information for a simulcast range which has the event identifier as next event information to generate the current/next event information.

Claim 28 is allowable because:

wherein the program guide information-generating device has single-event information for simulcast range-generating block which generates single-event information for a simulcast range which has the channel identifier of a simulcast other channel from the event identifier of a program entry registered in the program broadcasting schedule of a simulcast original channel and the program information of the simulcast original channel in accordance with a simulcast relationship which has the relationship between the channel identifier of the simulcast other channel and the channel identifier of the simulcast original channel, the program guide information-transmitting device has a current/next event information-transmitting block which generates current/next event information from a current/next event information

transmission schedule in which current/next event entries comprising the date and time to start broadcasting of a current event, the event identifier of the current event and the event identifier of a next event are registered in the order they are broadcast, the single-event information, the single-event information for a simulcast range and a program initiation notice comprising a channel identifier and a event identifier and which transmits the current/next event information, and the current/next event information-transmitting block uses single-event information for a simulcast range which has the channel identifier and event identifier set in the program initiation notice as current event information and the single-event information for an undetermined event as next event information to generate the current/next event information when a simulcast original channel identifier is set in the program initiation notice.

Claim 34 is allowable because:

wherein the program guide information-generating device has single-event information for simulcast range-generating block which generates the single-event information for a simulcast range which has the channel identifier of a simulcast other channel from the event identifier of a program entry whose time and date to start broadcasting falls between the date and time to start the simulcast range and the date and time to end the simulcast range or a program entry whose date and time to start broadcasting is undetermined in the program broadcasting schedule corresponding to the simulcast original channel identifier and the program information of the simulcast original channel when simulcast range information is registered in the program

broadcasting schedule, the program guide information-transmitting device has a current/next event information-transmitting block which generates current/next event information from a current/next event information transmission schedule in which current/next event entries comprising the date and time to start broadcasting of a current event, the event identifier of the current event and the event identifier of a next event are registered in the order they are broadcast, the single-event information, the single-event information for a simulcast range and a program initiation notice comprising a channel identifier and a event identifier and which transmits the current/next event information, and the current/next event information-transmitting block uses single-event information for a simulcast range which has the channel identifier and event identifier set in the program initiation notice as current event information and the single-event information for an undetermined event as next event information to generate the current/next event information when a simulcast original channel identifier is set in the program initiation notice.

Claim 40 is allowable because:

wherein the program guide information-generating device has single-event information for simulcast range-generating block which generates the single-event information for a simulcast range which has the channel identifier of a simulcast other channel from the event identifiers of program entries registered in the program broadcasting schedules of all channels and the program information of the channel

identifier, the program guide information-transmitting device has a current/next event information-transmitting block which generates current/next event information from a current/next event information transmission schedule in which current/next event entries comprising the date and time to start broadcasting of a current event, the event identifier of the current event and the event identifier of a next event are registered in the order they are broadcast, the single-event information, the single-event information for a simulcast range and a program initiation notice comprising a channel identifier and a event identifier and which transmits the current/next event information, and the current/next event information-transmitting block uses single-event information for a simulcast range which has the channel identifier and event identifier set in the program initiation notice as current event information and the single-event information for an undetermined event as next event information to generate the current/next event information when a simulcast original channel identifier is set in the program initiation notice.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Gong (U.S. 7080396 B2).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Peter C. Wilder whose telephone number is 571-272-2826. The examiner can normally be reached on 8 AM - 4PM Monday - Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chris Grant can be reached on (571)272-7294. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

PW

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